

WOFABE

7TH ANNUAL AFRICAN DANCE & DRUM FESTIVAL



NOVEMBER 10, 2012

AT THE HISTORIC
NEWARK SYMPHONY HALL
NEWARK, NJ

Festival Sponsors



Umoja Dance Company



Newark Symphony Hall



Newark Arts Council

Patrons

Hortense Anderson, Sasima Bunnag, Vilasinee Bunnag, Akilah Clarke, Deborah Cook, Monica Dennis, Harriet Duncan, Michelle Finikin, Jodie Harris, Ann McDuffie, Francine Iheukumere, Abdul Badi Muhammad, Kathrine Mott, G.P Van Giezen, Clara Morris-Richardson, Cheryl Sullivan, Philip Thomas, Sophia Walsh, Ben Jones, Evelyn Taylor, Michelle Doctor, Allison Smith, Kimberly Ballard

Umoja
DANCE COMPANY
presents

WOFABE

"Everybody Come"

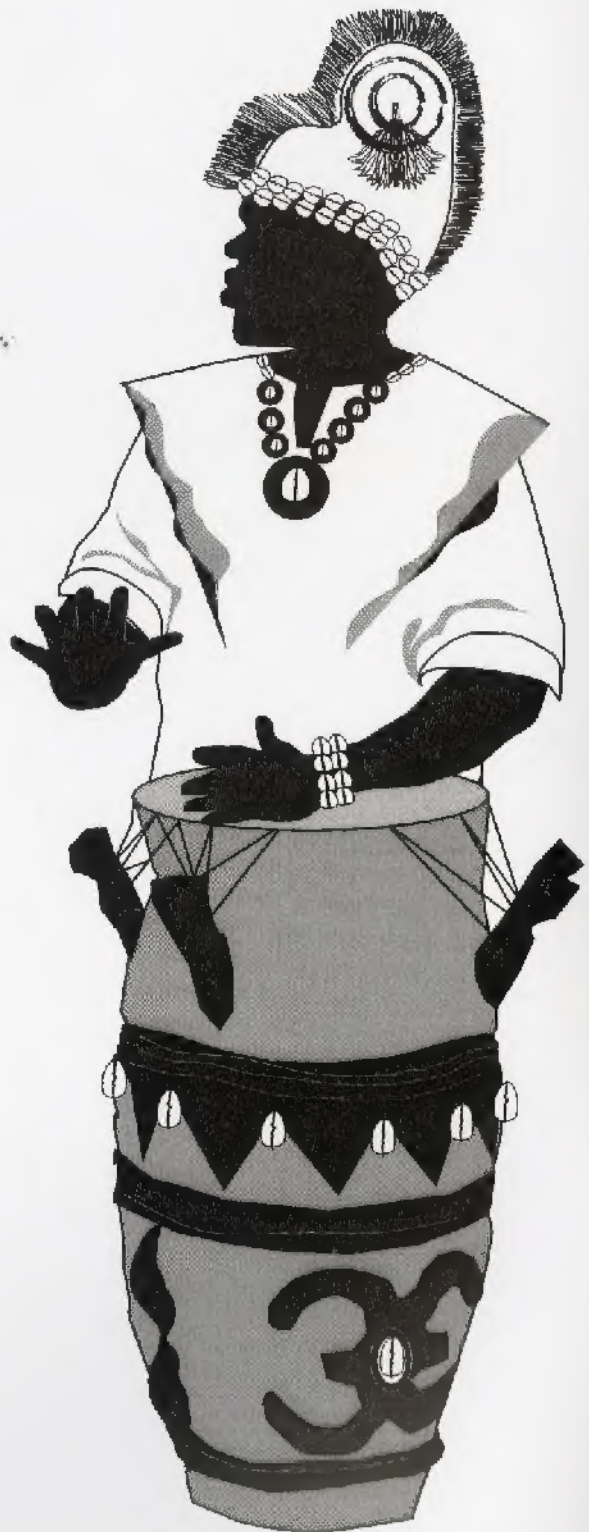
7th Annual
AFRICAN DANCE & DRUM
FESTIVAL

November 10, 2012
Newark Symphony Hall
Newark, NJ

On behalf of Umoja Dance Company
and the
Festival Committee

We Thank You
for your
Support, Love, and Patience
We are honored that you all
continue to support our efforts.
Thank you for embracing the
beauty and passion of
African dance and drum.

Namaste
"The divine in me honors
the divine in you"



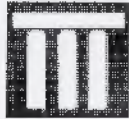
DANCE : CULTURE : RESPECT

Ashe... Ashe... Ashe...

Festival Sponsors



Umoja Dance Company



Newark Symphony Hall



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Thank You

Special thanks to our festival teachers and dance companies.

Teachers

M'bemba Bangoura
Ronald K. Brown
Baba Chuck Davis
Tenenfig Dioubate
Jerome Hunter
Sandella Malloy
Djeneba Sako

Companies

Harambee Dance Company
Restoration Youth Arts Academy
Wula Drum and Dance Ensemble
Newark Dance Ensemble

Special Thanks:

The Festival Committee, Newark Symphony Hall Staff, Mr. Ras Baraka, Central High School, Yvonne Onque, Umoja Dance Company members, Patrons, Sponsors, Joanne Pringle, Derek Garrett, Matt Mrowicki, Marie Thompson, NYU Alumni, Double Tour Media, technical crew, custodial staff, security staff, festival volunteers, and vendors.

To those not acknowledged please forgive my memory lapse.
Charge it to my head and not my heart

With Sincere Gratitude
Karen L. Love

program

WELCOME

Host: Baba Chuck Davis

Mistress of Ceremonies: Mama Yaa

NPS DANCE ENSEMBLE

Tatu Umoja (Three in Unity)

Choreography: Eyesha Marable

Music: Excerpt from Alvin Ailey's "Processional"

First Avenue School

Katherine Duke-Jackson, Principal

Dance Teacher: Susan Pope

Dancers: Vanessa Aguilar, Jaileen Astuquilca, Prince Cepeda, Destiny Coursy, Lucia Couto, Nicole Elder, Jocelyn Lugo, Naomi Martinez, Briana McBride, Jose Nieves, Merari Ortiz, Hannah Rivera, Anthony Rodus, Elil Serrano, Leandrea Tello

Peshine Avenue School

Chaleeta Barnes: Principal

Dance Teacher: Nikkia Tyrie Neal

Dancers: Mawa Doumbia, Tyrese Griffin, Keeron Harris, Isaish Haynes, Lauren Oppong Kyekyeku, Jahnae Lemons, Aminata Mansaray, Shaquan McCall, Fatima Sannor, Sariah Wilson

Speedway School

Atiba Buckman, Principal

Dance Teacher: Janelle Smith-Reed

Dancers: Kiara Amons, Yazmeen Brevard, Jatón Caldwell, Juanita Calhoun, Kamar Curley, Sajada Dunston, Tiana Dunston, Dasia Dickson, Tatianna Ford, Tanisha Harper, Najala Jones, Al-Kabir Lewis, Neichelle Patterson, Marsaiya Smith, Tayshawna Williams

Wula Drum & Dance Company

Musical Director/Choreographer: M'bemba Bagoura

Musicians : Yao Ababio, M'bemba Bangoura, Mino Camara, Gene Osbourne Jr.,

Nymba Seales, Abou Sylla

Dancers: Shatina Edwards, Khadijah Koumbassa, Shaneeka Nicholson, Allison Smith

The sounds of the djembes and dunduns are brought together to demonstrate the versatility, power, and expression of the drum. Music is universal and to be enjoyed worldwide. Enjoy an array of rhythms from Guinea, West Africa.

Soboninkun

Is originally a mask dance from Upper Guinea close to the border of Mali. It has different meanings in different villages, but the mask looks like that of an antelope. Traditionally, it is performed by a initiated person to the secret of the mask and a specialist in dancing skills and balance, usually danced after harvest. Tonight a contemporary version is presented for the purpose of celebration.

Bala Solo

Abou Sylla shows his mastery of the Bala, a 22-key African xylophone. The Bala is from the Maninka families of Guinea, who are the Djeli. The Djeli are oral historians of their culture, and keepers of the songs, history, folklore of each family name. The Bala has a deep and rich history which has been enjoyed for more than 800 years.

Goumbe

A rhythm and dance from the people of Sierra Leone, close to the Forecariah region of Guinea.

*** INTERMISSION ***

**Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation
Center for Arts and Culture
Youth Arts Academy
Restoration Dance Theatre**

Director: Ms Peggy Alston
Program Manager: Sabine LaFortune
Artistic Director: Karen Thornton-Daniels

Dancers

Principal Dancers:

Qahirah Kibler, Nyomie Torres, Nailah Walthour

Dancers

Deirdre Brock, Kaisa Browne, Sequoia Harris, Mia Jones, Talijha Lezama, Kianna McKoy, Colby Myers, Aziza Pope, Tianna Smith, Serena St. Clair, Tianna Thomas, Shoniah Torres, Amira Williams

Urbanfoli

Choreographer: Chris (Sweat) White

Music: Various Artists

Zaouly

Special Guest Artist, Mamadou Dahoue

Master Drummer, Trabi Lizie

Tribal Fusion

Choreographers

Karen Thornton-Daniels & Youssouf Koumbassa

Drummers

**Trabi Lizie, David Williams, Ryan Greenidge, Stephan Litzey,
Dellwyn Gilkes**

Harambee Dance Company

Artistic Director/Choreographer: Sandella Malloy
Musical Director - Frank W. Malloy IV, Executive Director - Frank
W. Malloy III, Production Assistant - Giovanni Jackson
Costumes - Sandella Malloy
Lighting - Frank W. Malloy III

Reflections

Choreography - Sandella Malloy, Richard Nixon
Singer - Moses Gardner

Loveseat

Musical Arrangement - Frank W Malloy IV

On The Hunt

Choreography By Sandella Malloy

Twogetha

Choreography By Sandella Malloy

Midnight In The City

Choreography By Sandella Malloy

Dancers

Elijah Davis, Dijon Dindsay, Latoya Hall, Kyra Johnson, Shola
Jones, Tamara Jones, Lamont Joseph, Sandella Malloy, Falosha
Martin, Becky Morrison, Linae Mcdonald, Richard Nixon, Kiara
Ross, Natalie Stephen, Keon Thoulouis, Asia Witherspoon, Tenea
White, Diachi Yamamoto

Singer

Moses Gardner

Musicians

Frank W Malloy IV - Musical Director, Frank W. Malloy IV:
Djembe, Balaphon, Frank W Malloy III: Djembe, Eddie Jones:
Djembe, Anthony Wooden: Djembe, Stanley Car: Bass Djembe,
Fareed Muhummad: Songba, Kenkeni, Uriel Charles: Shakere,
David Alston: Djundjun, Songba, Kenkeni, High Hat, Symbols,
Estuko Talima : Keyboard, Mike Bx: Bass Guitar

Finale

Wofabe Festival Committee

Jana Burton, Shatina Edwards, Karen L. Love, Lisa Morris,
Betty Robinson, Christine Smith, Kai Smith, Philip S. Thomas,
Jakotora Tjoutuku, Nikkia Tyrie, Donna Bost White

MISSION

Wofabe African Dance and Drum Festival strives to preserve and share the finest traditions of African dance and drumming and to encourage cross-cultural understanding. Wofabe celebrates traditional African culture, aesthetics and values as resources for all people. We continue to utilize the resources and information gathered from this and other events to further promote the art form in New Jersey.

WOFABE 2006

LOCATION: Newark Arts High School

- G'Bassikola Dance & Drum Collective (NY)
- Seewe Dance Company (NY)
- Usaama Dance Company(NJ)
- Zawadi School of African Dance (NJ)

Panel Topic: Challenges: Managing, Marketing & Touring African Dance Companies.

Moderators: Charmaine Warren (Dr. Marcia Heard, Yewande Kelly Johnson, Chuck Davis, Mama Yaa, Sis.Zul Latifa Zahiratu)

Teachers: Mangu Sylla, Mbemba Bangoura, Karen Miles, Nima Camara, Youssouff Koumbassa, Mouminatou Camara.

WOFABE 2007

LOCATION: Newark Arts High School

- Harambee Dance Company (NY)
- Kulu Mele African American Dance and Drum Ensemble (PA)
- Universal African Dance and Drum Ensemble(NJ)
- Zawadi School of African Dance and Drum (NJ)

Panel Topic: Challenges: Managing, Marketing & Touring African Dance Companies

Moderator: Charmaine Warren. (Dr. Marcia Heard, Amina Heckstall,

Jewel Jackson, Kwame Azalius Ross, Abdel R.Salaam, James Yarborough)

Teachers: Mangué Sylla, Mbemba Bangoura, Karen Miles, Ismael Kouyate, Youssouff Koumbassa, Prisca, Jewel Love.

WOFABE 2008 LOCATION: Science Park High School

- Asase Yaa African American Dance Theater (NY)
- Forces of Nature Dance Theatre (NY)
- Kulu Mele African American Dance and Drum Ensemble (PA)

Panel Topic: Teaching African Dance

Moderator: Charmaine Warren (Robin Gee, Yewande Kelly Johnson, Jerome Hunter, Andrea Markus, Sandella Malloy)

Teachers: Mangué Sylla, Mbemba Bangoura, Dion Rivers, Karen Miles, Ismael Kouyate, Nima Camara Youssouff Koumbassa, Funmilayo, Richard Gonzalez, Mama Yaa, Chuck Davis, Malang Bayo, Charmaine Warren, Esther Grant.

WOFABE 2009 LOCATION: Newark Symphony Hall

- African Soul International (OH)
- Kankouran West African Dance Company (DC)
- LaRocque Bey School of Dance (NY)

Teachers: Mangué Sylla, Laurent Camara, Youssouf Koumbassa, Assane Konté, Chuck Davis, Ciru Karanja, LaMora, Jewel Jackson.

WOFABE 2010 LOCATION: Newark Symphony Hall

- Kowteff African Dance Company (NY)
- Giwayen Mata (GA)
- Oyu Oro Afron Cuban Experimental Dance Ensemble (NY)

Teachers: Ronald K. Brown, Imani Faye, Chuck Davis, Ciru Karanja, LaMora, IyedunInce, Sandella Malloy, Kcydiima Zahir, Giwayen Mata.

WOFABE 2011**LOCATION: Newark Symphony Hall**

- Asase Yaa African American Dance Theater (NY)
- Universal African Dance and Drum Ensemble(NJ)
- Illstyle & Peace Productions(PA)

Teachers: Brandon Albright, Vanera Aponte, Kolipe Camara, Chuck Davis, Jerome Hunter, Mariama Koumbassa, Youssouf Koumbassa, Pure Onyx Movement.

Company Biographies

Harambee Dance Company

The Harambee Dance Company was founded by Sandella and Frank Malloy in 1992 in Charleston, South Carolina and relocated to New York City in 1996. The 25 member company, comprised of exceptionally skilled dancers and musicians, have ignited audiences around the world.

The company is led by artistic director and choreographer, Sandella Malloy. Sandella shares her transformative message and vision with audiences through masterful and high energy choreography that weaves African-based movement, modern dance forms, live percussion, and vibrant costumes (created by Sandella) into captivating performances.

Harambee has performed at a wide range of venues, both nationally and internationally including: United Nations Global Festival; Panafest in Ghana, West Africa; Africussion in Taiwan, with the Ju Percussion Group; Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival; the Lincoln Center; the Kennedy Center; Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning; Hudson River Festival; Harlem Week; The Family Arts Festival; Toronto's Caribana Festival and many others

Newark Dance Ensemble

The Newark Dance Ensemble is comprised of students in grades 1-8 who participate in the dance programs at their local schools. Three dance educators in the Newark Public School system, Nikkia T. Neal, Susan Pope, and Janelle Smith-Reed, came together and selected their most skilled and willing students to afford them performance opportunities that will help mold and shape them into professional artists. To date these students have performed for the Wofabe: African Dance and Drum Festival and the Newark Public School's Dance Festival. Our vision is to continue to grow and provide even more performance opportunities around the country for these hopeful artists, inspiring them to pursue professional dance careers.

Restoration Youth Arts Academy

The Restoration Dance Theatre Company (RDTC) is the youth dance ensemble established by the Center for Arts and Culture (CAC) of the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation. Its members are the dance ambassadors for CAC's Youth Arts Academy, which serves more than 300 students in multidisciplinary arts training. RDTC consists of young aspiring dancers with an interest in professional dance whose eclectic repertoire reflects traditional African, Dunham, ballet, modern, jazz, tap and contemporary dance styles. Members receive intensive training year round working with outstanding instructors and choreographers. Their annual participation in CAC's ChoreoQuest project provides master classes with guest artists to further enhance their development.

This year marks the sixteenth year of the corporation's collaboration with the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) for DanceAfrica. The company receives training from Baba Chuck Davis, and shares the BAM Opera House stage with

professional dance companies from around the world. This experience has brought RDTC face to face with the best dance companies in the USA, Caribbean and Africa. The members have studied and performed with Iwisa Dance Company from Zimbabwe (1998), Mzizi Dance Troupe from Kenya (1999), Geneis Noir from Benin (2000), N'dere Dance Troupe from Uganda (2001), Catumba from Cuba (2002), the Resurrection Dance Theater of Haiti (2003), The Kusun Dance Company of Ghana (2004), L'Acadco of Jamaica (2005), the Peru Negro: The Cultural Ambassadors of Black Peru (2006), Ndere Dance Troupe from Uganda (2007), Ceesay Kujabi and the Bachinab of The Gambia (2008), Forces of Nature, USA (2009), and the Pamodzi Dance Troupe of Zambia (2010), and an encore performance with the Ugandan company in 2011.

Each year RDTC holds an annual concert performing works by esteemed choreographers from the ChoreoQuest project. Mr. Germaul Barnes presented new works and was the guest artist at this year's concert. The company receives mentorship from participating ChoreoQuest artists to include, Germaul Barnes, Ronald K. Brown, Obediah Wright, Nathan Trice and the RDTC artistic director, Karen Thornton Daniels. Some of the company's performances have included Lincoln Center Out of Doors, World Financial Center, and NJPAC, The Museum of Natural History, The Rush Foundation's star studded event, Art for Life. Weeksville Society, the United Nations, Habitat for Humanity Project; a salute to Black Broadway at the Schomburg, New York Aquarium, International Arts Festival; Kwanzaa Expo at the Javits Center, and the Brooklyn Museum of Art performance in association with the Carol Beckwith and Angela Fisher exhibit entitled, Passages, to name a few. They have also performed on television for Martha Stewart Living, and CBS Sunday Mornings. We also look forward to each year's participation with the Central Brooklyn Jazz Consortium performing to the original works of such legends as the late Max Roach and Randy Weston.

Wula Drum & Dance Company

Wula Drum and Dance NYC was established as a professional company in 1997 by founder and artistic director Michael Markus. With the belief that music and dance transcend boundaries of race, culture and class, the troupe promotes the power of unity and understanding through musical performance and education. Wula's company members are from diverse cultural backgrounds, and fuse contemporary percussion and movement with traditional West African drum and dance rhythms. The explosive skill of the drumming, joined by the ecstatic energy of the dancers, has audiences all over the country jumping out of their seats. Titled after the Susu word meaning "deep in the forest where the good wood is," Wula is in a class by itself, celebrating with world-class talent the power of the drum to uplift and connect us all.

Led by musical director M'bemba Bangoura, Wula's company members are mostly comprised of master drummers and dancers from Guinea, West Africa. The music and movement created stems from the traditional folklore of West Africa and brings it into the modern realm. Wula performances are a celebration for everyone demonstrating the power of the drum to uplift and connect us all.

Titled after the Susu word meaning, 'where the good wood is,' Wula has audiences jumping out of their seats at a variety of venues from the east coast through the mid-west. The ensemble has performed and taught at theaters, schools/universities, community centers, museums, festivals and private/corporate functions. These have included Zocalo Music Festival in Mexico City, Skylands Arts & Music Festival, Lincoln Center Out of Doors, New York City Parks Foundation, Dancers Responding to AIDS, American Museum of Natural History, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Children's Museum of Manhattan, the Epilepsy Foundation, SUNY Purchase, Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning (NY), Venetian Hotel (Las Vegas), Wall Street Journal, and The National Library of Canada, to name a few.

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**Company Auditions will be held
late November-early December**

**umojadance@aol.com
for further info**

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since our humble beginnings in 1991!**

Come out and support the arts

UMOJA DANCE COMPANY
USAAMA DANCE COMPANY
1991-2000

Dr. Baba Chuck Davis
Master of Ceremonies/
Honorary Chairperson



Dr. Baba Chuck Davis, a native North Carolinian, is Founder and Artistic Director of the African American Dance Ensemble, the New York-based Dance Africa and the internationally acclaimed CULTURALARTS SAFARI, attended Howard University and continued his studies in African dance under the guidance of Babatunde Olatunji, Eleo Pomare, Mama Pearl Primus, Mama Thelma Hill and the Bernice Johnson Dance Company. His growing reputation as one of the foremost and accomplished choreographers and teachers in the traditional techniques of African dance compelled the American Dance Festival of Durham, NC, to recruit him for the position of Artist-in-Residence and to head up its outreach program. His desire to reach the young people of Durham who shared his enthusiasm and discipline for dance, was the fountainhead from which sprung the African American Dance Ensemble. He has nurtured and led the Ensemble on a course to become one of the truly premier dance companies of any kind touring the nation today.

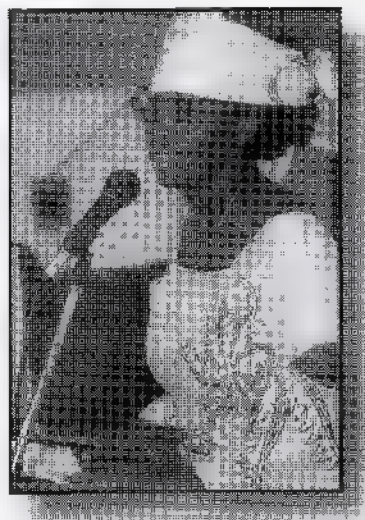
Dr. Davis keeps a full schedule including appearances with the Ensemble, guest artist directorships, choreographer assignments, and research and travel excursions to Africa and international points. He is the founder and facilitator of the Cultural Arts Safari, which makes an annual pilgrimage to the continent of Africa.

Dr. Davis has been a panelist for several programs of the NEA. Since 1991 he has served as a Governor-appointed member of the Board for the North Carolina Arts Council where he sits on the Dance panel. In 1992, he was the recipient of the North Carolina Award in Fine Arts for his impressive and unique contribution to African American culture. This is the highest honor the state can bestow in the Arts. Dr. Davis is a recipient of the NY Bessie Award and the very prestigious Brooklyn Academy of Music Award for

distinguished service to the arts world and beyond. In December of 1998, he received an honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from Medgar Evers College of New York. He has also received an Honorary Doctorates fro Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.

Dr. Davis and DanceAfrica were recognized by the Dance Heritage Coalition as one of the first 100 Irreplaceable Dance Treasures in the United States. In February 2002 he was presented The Advocacy Award in recognition of dedication and commitment to Civil Rights advocacy, especially on behalf of People with Developmental Disabilities, by the Durham Human Relations Commission. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus awarded Dr. Davis with a citation for his years of distinguished service, loyalty and commitment to the arts as well as lauding him as a foremost, distinguished and accomplished choreographer and teacher in the traditional techniques of African American Dance. Dr. Davis has been selected Artist of the Year by DanceUSA. He has also received the 2002 National Governor's Association Award for Distinguished Service to the Arts. The City of Durham declared August 5, 2002 as Chuck Davis Day in recognition of his accomplishments and contributions to the arts. North Carolina Dance Alliance has chosen Dr. Davis as the recipient of their 2002 award in recognition of his years of dedication to the advancement of dance in North Carolina, the nation, and the world. The coveted CAPEZIO AWARD was presented to Baba Chuck during the Grand Opening of DanceAfrica, Brooklyn, May, 2008. Earlier this month, October, Baba Chuck received The Medal of Arts Award presented by the City of Raleigh Arts Commission.

Karen L. Love:
Wofabe Festival Coordinator
Founder/Artistic Director
Umoja Dance Company



Born in Montclair, Love earned her MFA from New York University Tisch School of the Arts and her B.F.A. from Montclair State University. She received The New Jersey State Council on the Arts Fellowship Grant, and the Harkness Choreographers Space Grant at SUNY Purchase. Love was invited to The Bates Dance Festival in Maine as an Emerging Choreographer and later returned to teach for the Young Dancers Program. She was selected as a choreographer for the Yard on Martha's Vineyard, recognized in Who's Who Among American Teacher's 2004 and 2005 and was honored as one of the "50 Women You Should Know in Montclair, NJ". Most recently she was recognized as a "Women of Distinction" by The YWCA of Essex and West Hudson.

Presently, Love is the director of the Dance Department at Hillside High School, director of the After School Dance Program for Hillside Public Schools District and an adjunct professor at Montclair State University. She is a former faculty member in the Junior Division at The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre and former Visiting Artist in Residence at Kent State University. Love is a certified Pilates Mat Instructor and a certified Yoga instructor and is a registered teacher with Yoga Alliance.

She traveled to Australia as a representative for the dance department of Montclair State University where she both performed and taught classes in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. She has performed with Urban Bush Women, Gallmans Newark Dance Theatre, and The VonHoward Project. Love has studied West African dance for the past 16 years and was awarded two consecutive Folk Artist Apprenticeships from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts to study Guinean Dance with Master Teacher M' Bemba Bangoura. Love has traveled to Guinea, West Africa, Mexico and Bermuda under the tutelage of Bangoura. Love has traveled to Morocco, Senegal and the Gambia, West Africa under the direction of Baba Chuck Davis.

Philip S. Thomas **Producing Director**



Philip S. Thomas is the former Executive Director of Newark Symphony Hall. Mr. Thomas joined the staff of Newark Symphony Hall in May 2007 and was responsible for launching a revitalization effort to return the complex to its former role as a major venue for hosting and presenting a full range of music, dance and theater performances. Newark Symphony Hall consists of the Sarah Vaughan Concert Hall (2,800 seats), Terrace Ballroom (1,000 seats), the Newark Stage (220 seats), and the Studio Theater (75 seats). He provides oversight for the governance, human resource, finance, marketing, rental, presenting, and capital operations of the venue.

Philip S. Thomas was previously the Vice President of Arts Education at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), the 6th largest performing arts center in the United States. Mr. Thomas joined NJPAC in 1992 as the Founding Director for Arts Education, and was responsible for developing a comprehensive Arts Education Department for NJPAC that includes a \$3.5 million annual budget and 18 full-time staff members. Mr. Thomas also served on the team responsible for the \$4.5 million renovation of the Lucent Technologies Center for Arts Education (a 29,000 sq. ft. arts education facility.)

Philip S. Thomas also serves as President of Performing Arts Services which provides cultural planning services in the areas of artistic programming, arts education, marketing, community engagement, and facilities planning for individual artists, arts institutions, education organizations, corporations and government agencies. Performing Arts Services also provides business services and creative direction to performing artists and companies in conceptualizing, financing, producing and touring artistic programming in music, dance, theater, and the literary arts.

Philip S. Thomas received a B.A. degree in theater from Montclair State University.

Mama Yaa

Mistress of Ceremonies

Mama Yaa has been studying, teaching and performing for over 30 years. She has traveled to Africa, The Caribbean, Brazil, and Asia to hone and to share her craft. She has appeared in several movies including Gremlins 2 and Spike Lee's Jungle Fever. She recently appeared in a play starring Suzzanne Douglas and members of Sweet Honey in the Rock at the Martha's Vineyard Playhouse where she displayed her skills as a drummer.



WOFABE

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NOVEMBER 2013**

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